

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

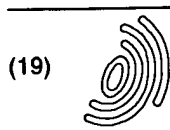
Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 1 170 761 A1

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**
published in accordance with Art. 158(3) EPC

(43) Date of publication:
09.01.2002 Bulletin 2002/02

(51) Int Cl.7: H01G 9/035

(21) Application number: 00909728.8

(86) International application number:
PCT/JP00/01667

(22) Date of filing: 17.03.2000

(87) International publication number:
WO 00/55876 (21.09.2000 Gazette 2000/38)

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE

(30) Priority: 17.03.1999 JP 7220099
17.03.1999 JP 7220199
30.03.1999 JP 8901499
30.03.1999 JP 8901599

(71) Applicant: Nippon Chemi-Con Corporation
Ome-Shi, Tokyo 198-8501 (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• SUGIYAMA, Takayuki
Ome-shi, Tokyo 198-8501 (JP)

• OZAWA, Tadashi
Ome-shi, Tokyo 198-8501 (JP)
• ITOH, Hidehiko
Ome-shi, Tokyo 198-8501 (JP)
• TAMAMITSU, Kenji
Ome-shi, Tokyo 198-8501 (JP)
• SAKAKURA, Masao
Ome-shi, Tokyo 198-8501 (JP)

(74) Representative: Müller, Hans-Jürgen, Dipl.-Ing.
Müller, Schupfner & Gauger Postfach 10 11 61
80085 München (DE)

(54) **ELECTROLYTE FOR ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITOR**

(57) An electrolyte having a high conductivity, an excellent high-temperature life characteristic and leading to improvement of the shelf characteristic of an aluminum electrolytic capacitor.

At least one phosphate ion producing compound

and a chelating agent are added using a solvent largely composed of water. Therefore, an aluminum electrolytic capacitor comprising such an electrolyte has a low impedance, an excellent high-temperature life characteristic, and an improved shelf characteristic.

EP 1 170 761 A1

Description**Industrial Field of Application:**

5 **[0001]** The present invention relates to an electrolytic solution for an electrolytic capacitor.

Prior Art:

10 **[0002]** An aluminum electrolytic capacitor generally has the following constitution. Specifically, a high-purity aluminum foil shaped in a strip form is subjected to a surface-enlargement treatment by chemical or electrochemical etching, and the aluminum foil whose surface has been subjected to an enlargement treatment is subjected to a formation treatment in a forming solution, such as an aqueous ammonium borate solution, to prepare an anodic foil comprising the aluminum foil having an oxide film layer formed thereon. Then, the anodic foil is overlapped and wound with a cathodic foil, which is prepared by subjecting a high-purity aluminum foil to a surface-enlargement treatment in a similar manner, via a separator, to prepare a capacitor element. The capacitor element is then dipped in an electrolytic solution for driving and housed in a metallic sheathed package in a closed-end cylindrical form. Further, a sealing member made of elastic rubber is inserted into an open-end section of the sheathed package, and the open-end section of the sheathed package is sealed by drawing, whereby an aluminum electrolytic capacitor is constituted.

15 **[0003]** As the electrolytic solution impregnated into the capacitor element of a compact aluminum electrolytic capacitor for low voltage, one having ethylene glycol as a main solvent and an ammonium salt of adipic acid, benzoic acid or the like as a solute, one having γ -butyrolactone as a main solvent and a quaternary cyclic amidinium salt of phthalic acid, maleic acid or the like as a solute, and the like have been conventionally known.

Problems that the Invention is to Solve:

25 **[0004]** Applications of the electrolytic capacitor include an electronic apparatus, such as an output smoothing circuit of a switching power supply or the like. While low impedance characteristics are demanded in these applications, such demand is being increased for an electrolytic capacitor along with the progress of miniaturization of the electronic apparatus. The conventional electrolytic solution cannot deal with the demand, and an electrolytic solution having a higher electroconductivity is demanded. The invention is to solve the problem, and one object thereof is to provide an electrolytic solution for an electrolytic capacitor that can realize a low impedance electrolytic capacitor, has a high electroconductivity, and is excellent in high-temperature service life characteristics.

30 **[0005]** The conventional aluminum electrolytic capacitor has such problems that, upon allowing to stand, the capacitance is decreased, and the leakage current characteristics are deteriorated, which finally cause opening of a safety valve, and the reliability of the electrolytic capacitor is greatly influenced by the shelf characteristics, which are the characteristics after lapsing a long period of time under load or under no load.

35 **[0006]** Accordingly, when an aluminum electrolytic capacitor that had been deteriorated by allowing to stand for a long period of time was analyzed, it was found that the pH of the electrolytic solution is increased, and an anionic component, i.e., the solute, was attached to the surface of the electrode foil. It becomes apparent from these facts that aluminum on the surface of the electrode foil is reacted with the anionic component as the solute to attach on the electrode foil, and aluminum is dissolved to form a hydroxide, part of which is reacted with the anionic component as the solute to form a hydrogen gas through the reaction. The reaction is repeated to increase the pH, and finally it brings about deterioration of the electrode foil and opening of the valve.

40 **[0007]** Meanwhile, it has been well known that phosphoric acid is effective for prevention of the deterioration of an electrode foil, but it is not sufficient. This is because even when phosphoric acid is added, the phosphoric acid thus added is bonded to aluminum in the electrolytic solution to form a water-insoluble complex, and the insoluble complex is attached to the electrode foil, whereby the phosphoric acid is diminished from the electrolytic solution. Furthermore, when the addition amount is too large, such a problem arises that the leakage current is increased. However, the characteristics of the electrolytic capacitor are maintained in good conditions during the period where the phosphate ions remain in an appropriate amount before diminishment thereof, and therefore, the invention has been completed, another object of which is to improve the shelf characteristics of the electrolytic capacitor.

Means for Solving the Problems:

55 **[0008]** The electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention is characterized by containing a solvent containing water and a water-soluble aluminum complex having a phosphate ion combined thereto.

[0009] The water-soluble aluminum complex having a phosphate ion combined thereto can be formed by adding a compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution (a phosphate ion forming compound) and a chelating agent

forming a water-soluble aluminum complex with aluminum. The phosphate ion forming compound can be selected from the phosphorus compounds described later, phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid, salts thereof, condensates thereof, and salts of the condensates.

5 [0010] In a preferred embodiment of the invention, at least one kind of adipic acid and a salt thereof is used as the solute.

[0011] The solvent contains water as a main component (i.e., in an amount of about 25% or more), and the content of water is generally from 35 to 100% by weight of the entire solvent.

[0012] The content of adipic acid or a salt thereof is generally from 5 to 20% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.

10 [0013] The content of the phosphorus compounds, phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid, salts thereof, condensates thereof, and salts of the condensates is generally from 0.01 to 3.0% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.

[0014] The content of the chelating agent is generally from 0.01 to 3.0% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.

Mode for Carrying Out the Invention:

15 [0015] The electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention is an electrolytic solution, in which the compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution and the chelating agent are added to the solvent containing water to form a combined product of the water-soluble aluminum complex and a phosphate ion, and after being impregnated in the capacitor element, it reacts with aluminum eluted from the aluminum foil used as the electrode foil to the electrolytic solution, so as to form the combined product of the water-soluble aluminum complex and a phosphate ion

20 [0016] As the solvent, a protonic polar solvent, an aprotic solvent and a mixture thereof can be used in addition to water. Examples of the protonic polar solvent include a monohydric alcohol (such as methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, hexanol, cyclohexanol, cyclopentanol, benzyl alcohol and the like), a polyhydric alcohol and an oxyalcohol compound (such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerin, methyl cellosolve, ethyl cellosolve, 1,3-butanediol, methoxypropylene glycol and the like). Representative examples of the aprotic solvent include an amide series (such as N-methylformamide, N,N-dimethylformamide, N-ethylformamide, N,N-diethylformamide, N-methylacetamide, hexamethylphosphoric amide and the like), a lactone compound, a cyclic amide compound, a carbonate compound (such as γ -butyrolactone, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate and the like), a nitrile compound (such as acetonitrile and the like), an oxide compound (such as dimethyl sulfoxide and the like) and the like.

30 [0017] As the compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution (the phosphate ion forming compound), the following compounds can be exemplified. They are the phosphorus compounds described later, phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid, salts thereof, condensates thereof, and salts of the condensates.

35 [0018] Examples of the above-described phosphorus compound and salt thereof include an alkyl phosphate, such as ethyl phosphate, diethyl phosphate, butyl phosphate, dibutyl phosphate and the like; a phosphonate and a diphosphonate or a derivative thereof, such as phosphonic acid, 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid, aminotrimethylenephosphonic acid, phenylphosphonic acid and the like; a phosphinate, such as methyl phosphinate, butyl phosphinate and the like and salts of all of them. Among these, are preferred dibutyl phosphate, 1-hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acid and salts of them. As the salts of the phosphorus compounds, an ammonium salt, an aluminum salt, a sodium salt, a potassium salt, a calcium salt and the like can be used.

40 [0019] A condensed phosphoric acid, which is a condensate of phosphoric acid, and a salt thereof are used. As the condensed phosphoric acid, a linear condensed phosphoric acid, such as pyrophosphoric acid, tripolyphosphoric acid, tetrapolyphosphoric acid and the like, a cyclic condensed phosphoric acid, such as metaphosphoric acid, hexameta-phosphoric acid and the like, and a product formed by combining the linear and cyclic condensed phosphoric acids. As the salts of the condensed phosphoric acid, an ammonium salt, a sodium salt, a potassium salt and the like can be used. Among these are preferred pyrophosphoric acid, tripolyphosphoric acid, tetrapolyphosphoric acid and salts of them, and are more preferred pyrophosphoric acid, tripolyphosphoric acid and salts of them, with tripolyphosphoric acid being most preferred. As the salts of the condensates, an ammonium salt, an aluminum salt, a sodium salt, a potassium salt, a calcium salt and the like can be used.

50 [0020] Furthermore, as the phosphate ion forming compound, phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid and salts of them can be used. The salts thereof are an ammonium salt, an aluminum salt, a sodium salt, a calcium salt and a potassium salt. Phosphoric acid and a salt thereof form a phosphate ion through decomposition in an aqueous solution. Phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid and salts of them form a phosphite ion and a hypophosphite ion through decomposition in an aqueous solution, which then become phosphate ions through oxidation.

55 [0021] As the condensate other than the condensed phosphoric acid, the phosphorus compounds, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid, salts of them, and condensates of the phosphorus compounds, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid and a salt of hypophosphorous acid can be used. Furthermore, salts of the condensates can also be used. As the salts of the condensates, an ammonium salt, an aluminum salt, a sodium salt, a potassium salt, a

calcium salt and the like can be used.

[0022] These are also the phosphate ion forming compounds, which form a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution or form a phosphite ion or a hypophosphite ion, which then become a phosphate ion through oxidation.

[0023] Among these, phosphoric acid or a salt thereof, condensed phosphoric acid, and a derivative of phosphoric acid, such as a phosphate or an alkyl phosphate, which easily form a phosphate ion, are preferred. Further, a linear condensed phosphoric acid. Such as phosphoric acid, pyrophosphoric acid, tri-polyphosphoric acid or the like, which forms a large amount of phosphate ions in a relatively high rate with respect to the addition amount, and a salt thereof are also preferred. In addition to these phosphate ion forming compounds, the effect of the invention can be obtained by substances that form a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution.

[0024] The addition amount of the phosphate ion forming compound is from 0.01 to 3.0% by weight, and preferably from 0.2 to 2.0% by weight, of the entire electrolytic solution. The effect is reduced outside the range.

[0025] Similarly, the chelating agent forming a water-soluble aluminum complex with aluminum is used as an additive. As the chelating agent, the following can be exemplified. That is, they are an α -hydroxycarboxylic acid, such as citric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, malic acid, lactic acid, glycolic acid, α -hydroxybutyric acid, hydroxymalonic acid, α -methylmalic acid, dihydroxytartaric acid and the like, an aromatic hydroxycarboxylic acid, such as γ -resocyclic acid, β -resocyclic acid, trihydroxybenzoic acid, hydroxyphthalic acid, dihydroxyphthalic acid, phenoltricarboxylic acid, aluminon, Eriochrome Cyanine R and the like, a sulfocarboxylic acid, such as sulfosalicylic acid and the like, a tannin, such as tannic acid and the like, a guanidine, such as dicyandiamide and the like, a saccharide, such as galactose, glucose and the like, a lignin, such as lignosulfonate and the like, an aminopolycarboxylic acid, such as ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid (EDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), glycoethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (GEDTA), diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid (TTHA) and the like, and salts of them. As the salts of them, an ammonium salt, an aluminum salt, a sodium salt, a potassium salt and the like can be used. Among these, are preferred tannic acid, trihydroxybenzoic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, auranic tricarboxylic acid, γ -resocyclic acid, DTPA, EDTA, GEDTA, HEDTA, TTHA and salts thereof, which easily exert chelate formation with aluminum, and are more preferred tannic acid, trihydroxybenzoic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, γ -resocyclic acid, auranic tricarboxylic acid, DTPA, GEDTA, HEDTA, TTHA and salts thereof.

[0026] The addition amount of the chelating agent is from 0.01 to 3.0% by weight, and preferably from 0.1 to 2.0% by weight, of the entire electrolytic solution. The effect is reduced outside the range.

[0027] As the solute of the electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor used in the invention, an ammonium salt, a quaternary ammonium salt or an amine salt of a carboxylic acid, such as adipic acid, formic acid, benzoic acid and the like, can be used. Examples of a quaternary ammonium constituting the quaternary ammonium salt include a tetraalkylammonium (such as tetramethylammonium, tetraethylammonium, tetrapropylammonium, tetrabutylammonium, methyltriethylammonium, dimethyldiethylammonium and the like) and a pyridinium (such as 1-methylpyridinium, 1-ethylpyridinium, 1,3-diethylpyridinium and the like). Examples of an amine constituting the amine salt include a primary amine (such as methylamine, ethylamine, propylamine, butylamine, ethylenediamine, monoethanolamine and the like), a secondary amine (such as dimethylamine, diethylamine, dipropylamine, ethylmethylamine, diphenylamine, diethanolamine and the like), and a tertiary amine (such as trimethylamine, triethylamine, tributylamine, 1,8-diazabicyclo(5,4,0)-undecene, 7-triethanolamine and the like).

[0028] Furthermore, the following acids can be used as the carboxylic acid. They are carboxylic acids including glutaric acid, succinic acid, isophthalic acid, phthalic acid, terephthalic acid, maleic acid, toluic acid, enanthic acid, malonic acid, a decanedicarboxylic acid, such as 1,6-decanedicarboxylic acid, 5,6-decanedicarboxylic acid and the like, an octanedicarboxylic acid, such as 1,7-octanedicarboxylic acid and the like, azelaic acid, sebacic acid and the like. An inorganic acid, such as boric acid, a polyhydric alcohol complex compound of boric acid obtained from boric acid and a polyhydric alcohol, phosphoric acid, carbonic acid, silicic acid and the like, can also be used. Among them, are preferred an organic carboxylic acid, such as a decanedicarboxylic acid, an octanedicarboxylic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, adipic acid, glutaric acid, succinic acid, benzoic acid, isophthalic acid, formic acid and the like, boric acid and a polyhydric alcohol complex compound of boric acid.

[0029] A salt having a quaternary cyclic amidinium ion as a cationic component may also be used. Examples of an acid forming an anionic component of the salt include phthalic acid, isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid, maleic acid, benzoic acid, toluic acid, enanthic acid, malonic acid and the like.

[0030] The quaternary cyclic amidinium ion as a cationic component is a cation formed by quaternarizing a cyclic compound having an N,N,N'-substituted amidine group, and the following compounds are exemplified as the cyclic compound having an N,N,N'-substituted amidine group. They are an imidazole monocyclic compound (for example, an imidazole homologue, such as 1-methylimidazole, 1-phenylimidazole, 1,2-dimethylimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-methylimidazole, 1,2-dimethylimidazole, 1-ethyl-2-methylimidazole, 1,2,4-trimethylimidazole and the like, an oxyalkyl derivative, such as 1-methyl-2-oxyethylimidazole, 1-methyl-2-oxyethylimidazole and the like, a nitro derivative such as 1-methyl-4(5)-nitroimidazole and the like, an amino derivative such as 1,2-dimethyl-5(4)-aminoimidazole and the like), a benzimidazole compound (such as 1-methylbenzimidazole, 1-methyl-2-benzimidazole, 1-me-

thyl-5(6)-nitrobenzimidazole and the like), a compound having a 2-imidazoline ring (such as 1-methylimidazoline, 1,2-dimethylimidazoline, 1,2,4-trimethylimidazoline, 1-methyl-2-phenylimidazoline, 1-ethyl-2-methylimidazoline, 1,4-dimethyl-2-ethylimidazoline, 1-methyl-2-ethoxymethylimidazoline and the like), a compound having a tetrahydropyrimidine ring (such as 1-methyl-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrimidine, 1,2-dimethyl-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrimidine, 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]nonene-5 and the like), and the like.

[0031] The aluminum electrolytic capacitor containing the electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention described in the foregoing is good in shelf characteristics, i.e., characteristics after a load or no load test for a long period of time, and further the initial capacitance is also increased.

[0032] After impregnating a capacitor element with the electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention, the chelating agent forms a water-soluble complex with aluminum eluted from the aluminum foil in the electrolytic solution, which forms a combined product through a reaction with a phosphate ion. The combined product is attached to the electrode foil or is dissolved in the electrolytic solution and releases phosphate ions in that state, so as to exert such function that phosphate ions in the electrolytic solution are maintained in a suitable amount. The phosphate ions suppress dissolution of aluminum and formation of a hydroxide of aluminum to suppress deterioration of the electrode foil, whereby the shelf characteristics of the aluminum electrolytic capacitor are improved. The phosphate ions in the electrolytic solution and the phosphate ions in the combined product are detected for a long period of time after allowing to stand in an amount of from 10 to 40,000 ppm in terms of a phosphate radical (the electrolytic solution is diluted with diluted nitric acid of 2 mmol/L to 1,000 times to make pH of from 2 to 3, and phosphate ions are quantitatively determined by an ionic chromatography analysis).

[0033] The following experiments clarify these facts. The aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention was disassembled, and the electrolytic solution impregnated in the capacitor element was washed and removed. Thereafter, the capacitor element was impregnated with an electrolytic solution containing no phosphate ion to produce an aluminum electrolytic capacitor, and the shelf characteristics of the resulting aluminum electrolytic capacitor were excellent. Phosphate radicals of from 10 to 200 ppm were detected from the electrolytic solution of the aluminum electrolytic capacitor, but substantially no aluminum was detected. That is, the water-soluble complex of the chelating agent and aluminum is combined to phosphate ions to be attached to the electrode foil, and the combined product releases phosphate ions into the electrolytic solution to maintain the suitable phosphate ion concentration for a long period of time, whereby the shelf characteristics of the capacitor are improved.

[0034] In the case where the aluminum complex thus formed is not water-soluble, i.e., water-insoluble, the effect of the invention cannot be obtained because it is considered that it has no function of releasing phosphate ions.

[0035] In general, when the content of water in the solvent is increased, the pressure inside the capacitor is increased due to formation of a hydrogen gas, causing such situation that blister is formed on the package. Particularly, in a high-temperature service life test at 105°C or higher, when the content of water exceeds 15% by weight, a large amount of gas is formed to increase the pressure inside the capacitor to cause such a situation that the safety valve is opened, and thus, it becomes unusable. That is, the state where the cathodic foil is in contact with the electrolytic solution at a high temperature is continued for a long period of time, and under the presence of a large amount of water, water reaches the aluminum foil through the dense oxide film formed on the aluminum film and reacts with aluminum to form aluminum hydroxide. A hydrogen gas is formed at this time. Furthermore, the reaction suddenly proceeds at a high temperature of 105°C or higher to form a large amount of gas, and thus, it results in an increase of the inner pressure of the capacitor and opening of the valve of the capacitor.

[0036] However, in the electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention, because the phosphate ion forming compound and the chelating agent are added to the solvent containing water as a main component as an electrolytic solution, the specific resistance of the electrolytic solution can be reduced, and the impedance of the electrolytic capacitor can be reduced. Furthermore, because the phosphate ion concentration of the electrolytic solution in the capacitor element can be maintained to a suitable amount for a long period of time by the chelating agent, dissolution and deterioration of the electrode foil can be prevented, and the high-temperature service life characteristics of the aluminum electrolytic capacitor can be maintained in an excellent state.

[0037] The chelating agent and the phosphoric acid compound added upon producing the electrolytic solution provide the chelating agent and a phosphate ion in the electrolytic solution of a molar ratio, chelating agent/phosphate ion, of from 1/20 to 3/1. Furthermore, it is preferably from 1/10 to 1/1. When the amount of the chelating agent is smaller than the ratio, the leakage current characteristics of the aluminum electrolytic capacitor are lowered. When it is more than the ratio, the high-temperature service life characteristics of the aluminum electrolytic capacitor are deteriorated although the reasons therefor are not clear.

[0038] When a large amount of water is contained in the electrolytic solution, deterioration of the electrode foil becomes remarkable, and in particular, when the content of water in the electrolytic solution exceeds 15%, such problem occurs that deterioration of the characteristics of the aluminum electrolytic capacitor becomes remarkable under the conditions for allowing to stand of 125°C or higher. In the invention, however, it has been found that the effect is obtained even in the case where a large amount of water is contained, and thus, an aluminum electrolytic capacitor having low

impedance characteristics can be obtained by using the electrolytic solution.

[0039] That is, an aluminum electrolytic capacitor having low impedance characteristics can be realized by using a solvent containing water as a main component in the electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention.

5 [0040] The content of water is generally from 30 to 100% by weight, preferably from 35 to 65% by weight, and more preferably from 55 to 65% by weight, of the entire solvent. The electroconductivity is lowered outside the range.

[0041] As described in the foregoing, in the electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention, even when the content of water is 15% by weight or more, an aluminum electrolytic capacitor having excellent high-temperature service life characteristics and withstanding a high-temperature test of 105°C or higher can be obtained. Furthermore, because the content of water in the solvent can be increased to 100% by weight to obtain an electrolytic solution containing water as a main component, the electroconductivity of the electrolytic solution can be increased to obtain an aluminum electrolytic capacitor having low impedance characteristics.

[0042] Furthermore, it can be used at 125°C when the content of water is 65% by weight or more. Therefore, the range where it has a high electroconductivity and can be used at 125°C is from 55 to 65% by weight. In the case where the phosphate ion forming compound and the chelating agent, which are used as additives in the invention, are used singly within the range of the content of water of 65% by weight or lower, there are some cases where it withstands the service life test at 105°C, but it suffers from opening of the valve in the initial stage on the high-temperature service life test of 125°C or higher. However, it can be used at 125°C owing to the synergistic effect between the phosphate ion forming compound and the chelating agent.

20 [0043] Furthermore, in the conventional aluminum electrolytic capacitor using an electrolytic solution containing water, the leakage current is increased after a high-temperature no load test, but in the aluminum electrolytic capacitor using the electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention, the increase of the leakage current is small, and the change of $\tan \delta$ after the high-temperature test is smaller than the conventional product, whereby the high-temperature service life characteristics are improved.

25 [0044] As described in the foregoing, the content of water in the solvent can be increased to 100% by weight by adding the phosphate ion forming compound and the chelating agent to the solvent containing water as a main component, whereby an electrolytic solution having a high electroconductivity can be obtained, blister and opening of the valve in the package of the capacitor are prevented, and the $\tan \delta$ and the leakage current characteristics after the high-temperature test are improved. Accordingly, the invention realizes an electrolytic capacitor having impedance characteristics and high-temperature service life characteristics, which cannot be found in the conventional art, owing to the synergistic effect among the solvent containing water as a main component, the phosphate ion forming compound and the chelating agent.

[0045] The electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention using the solvent containing water as a main component does not suffer from such problem as ignition even in the case where the capacitor is broken down upon using under non-standard conditions, such as use at high voltage. Other components than the solvent are the phosphoric acid forming compound and the chelating agent, and therefore the components constituting the electrolytic solution have high safety. It is thus excellent in environmental resistance.

[0046] The impedance is further decreased by using at least one kind of adipic acid and a salt thereof as the solute.

40 [0047] The content of adipic acid or a salt thereof is from 5 to 20% by weight, and preferably from 9 to 16% by weight, in the electrolytic solution. The electroconductivity is decreased when it is less than the range, and the solubility is decreased when it exceeds the range. The content of other solute is also about from 5 to 20% by weight, and preferably about from 9 to 15% by weight, in the entire electrolytic solution.

[0048] Furthermore, an improvement of the voltage resistance can be attained by adding boric acid, mannitol, a nonionic surfactant, colloidal silica and the like to the electrolytic solution for an electrolytic capacitor of the invention.

45 [0049] By using the electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the invention, such aluminum electrolytic capacitor can be obtained that is excellent in impedance characteristics and further, in high-temperature service life characteristics.

[0050] The invention will be described more specifically below with reference to the Examples.

50 Examples

[0051] The invention will be described in detail with reference to First Example. The capacitor element is formed by rolling up an anodic foil and a cathodic foil with a separator intervening therebetween. The anodic foil used is one obtained in such a manner that an aluminum foil of a purity of 99.9% is subjected to chemical or electrochemical etching in an acidic solution to enhance the surface area thereof and then subjected to a chemical treatment in an ammonium adipate aqueous solution, so as to form an anodic oxide film layer on the surface thereof. The cathodic foil used is an aluminum foil of a purity of 99.9% having been subjected to etching to enhance the surface area thereof.

[0052] The capacitor element thus constituted in the foregoing manner is impregnated with an electrolytic solution

for driving an electrolytic capacitor. The capacitor element impregnated with the electrolytic solution is housed in an aluminum cylindrical outer package with a bottom, a sealing member formed with butyl rubber is inserted into an open end of the outer package, and further, the open end of the outer package is sealed by drawing to seal the aluminum electrolytic capacitor.

5 [0053] The compositions and the characteristics of the electrolytic solutions used herein are shown in Tables 1-1 and 1-2.

[0054] The aluminum electrolytic capacitors thus constituted were subjected to a high-temperature service life test. The rating of the aluminum electrolytic capacitors is 50 WV-100 μ F. The test conditions are at 125°C with load of the rated voltage for 1,000 hours, and at 125°C with no load for 1,000 hours for Examples 1-1 to 1-11, Conventional
10 Example 1-1, and Comparative Examples 1-1 and 1-2, and at 105°C with load of the rated voltage for 1,000 hours, and at 105°C with no load for 1,000 hours for Examples 1-12 and 1-13, Conventional Example 1-2, and Comparative Example 1-3, with the respective results being shown in Tables 1-3 to 1-6 and Tables 1-7 and 1-8.

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

Table 1-1

	Water	EG	AAd	TRPA	ACTR	Specific resistance (Ωcm)
Example 1-1	30(35)	56	12.0	1.0	1.0	89
Example 1-2	47(55)	39	12.0	1.0	1.0	42
Example 1-3	52(60)	34	12.8	0.2	1.0	31
Example 1-4	52(60)	34	12.9	1.0	0.1	31
Example 1-5	53(60)	36	9.0	1.0	1.0	39
Example 1-6	52(60)	34	12.0	1.0	1.0	32
Example 1-7	49(60)	33	16.0	1.0	1.0	30
Example 1-8	52(60)	34	11.0	1.0	2.0	33
Example 1-9	52(60)	34	11.0	2.0	1.0	33

(Note)

EG: Ethylene glycol

AAd: Ammonium adipate

TRPA: Triphosphoric acid

ACTR: Ammonium citrate

The parenthetic numerals in the column for water are the contents of water in the solvent.

Table 1-2

	Water	EG	Aad	PRPA	TRPA	ACTR	AGLC	Specific resistance (Ω cm)
Example 1-10	52(60)	34	12.0	—	1.0	—	1.0	31
Example 1-11	52(60)	34	12.0	1.0	—	1.0	—	32
Example 1-12	65(75)	21	12.0	—	1.0	1.0	—	24
Example 1-13	86(100)	—	12.0	—	1.0	1.0	—	16
Conventional Example 1-1	5(5)	93	7.0	—	—	—	—	248
Conventional Example 1-2	9(10)	77	14	—	—	—	—	172
Comparative Example 1-1	9(10)	77	13.0	—	—	1.0	—	175
Comparative Example 1-2	9(10)	77	13.0	—	1.0	—	—	173
Comparative Example 1-3	13(15)	73	14	—	—	—	—	129

(Note)

PRPA: Pyrophosphoric acid

AGLC: Ammonium gluconate

The parenthetic numerals in the column for water are the contents of water in the solvent.

Table 1-3

	Initial characteristics			Load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 1-1	102	0.030	2.13	-6.1	0.096	1.49
Example 1-2	103	0.020	1.88	-6.2	0.032	1.45
Example 1-3	103	0.020	1.93	-6.3	0.030	1.46
Example 1-4	103	0.020	1.90	-6.2	0.029	1.56
Example 1-5	103	0.020	1.99	-6.6	0.032	1.51
Example 1-6	103	0.019	1.93	-6.4	0.029	1.54
Example 1-7	103	0.019	1.92	-6.3	0.030	1.52

(Note)

Cap: Capacitance (μ F)tan δ : Tangent of dielectric lossLC: Leakage current (μ A) Δ Cap: Change rate of capacitance (%)

Table 1-4

	Initial characteristics			Load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 1-8	103	0.020	1.91	-6.3	0.027	1.40
Example 1-9	103	0.020	1.90	-6.2	0.030	1.40
Example 1-10	103	0.020	1.93	-6.5	0.029	1.44
Example 1-11	103	0.019	1.93	-6.2	0.028	1.54
Conventional Example 1-1	101	0.063	2.03	-7.3	0.232	1.54
Comparative Example 1-1	102	0.043	1.90	Valve opened		
Comparative Example 1-2	102	0.044	1.88	Valve opened		

Table 1-5

	Initial characteristics			No load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 1-1	102	0.029	2.13	-8.5	0.128	13.0
Example 1-2	103	0.020	2.00	-7.9	0.027	12.0
Example 1-3	103	0.020	1.90	-7.2	0.029	15.3
Example 1-4	104	0.019	2.03	-7.1	0.028	15.5
Example 1-5	103	0.020	1.98	-8.1	0.029	14.8
Example 1-6	103	0.020	2.04	-7.2	0.026	15.0
Example 1-7	103	0.019	1.91	-8.2	0.027	15.3

Table 1-6

	Initial characteristics			No load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 1-8	104	0.021	2.00	-7.3	0.030	13.0
Example 1-9	103	0.019	2.00	-7.3	0.028	14.5
Example 1-10	103	0.020	1.86	-7.4	0.029	12.3
Example 1-11	103	0.020	1.90	-7.2	0.028	12.0
Conventional Example 1-1	101	0.065	2.22	-8.8	0.313	103
Comparative Example 1-1	101	0.045	1.99	Valve opened		
Comparative Example 1-1	101	0.044	2.03	Valve opened		

Table 1-7

	Initial characteristics			Load at 105°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 1-12	104	0.019	2.05	-4.8	0.021	1.59
Example 1-13	103	0.017	1.98	-4.8	0.022	1.50
Conventional Example 1-2	103	0.045	1.89	-4.2	0.063	1.59
Comparative Example 1-3	103	0.038	1.92	Valve opened		

Table 1-8

	Initial characteristics			No load at 105°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	Ian δ	LC	Δ Cap	Ian δ	LC
Example 1-12	103	0.018	2.05	-6.1	0.021	14.1
Example 1-13	103	0.016	1.95	-6.1	0.021	14.7
Conventional Example 1-2	103	0.045	1.88	-5.1	0.069	85.1
Comparative Example 1-3	104	0.037	1.91	Valve opened		

- 5 **[0055]** It is clear from Tables 1-1 to 1-8 that, in Examples 1-1 to 1-13 having contents of water in the solvent of from 35 to 100% by weight, the electrolytic solution has a low specific resistance and a low $\tan \delta$ in the initial stage in comparison to the Conventional Examples. The change of $\tan \delta$ after the high-temperature test is also small. Furthermore, the leakage current after the high-temperature no load test is remarkably small in comparison to the Conventional Examples. In the results of the high-temperature test at 105°C shown in Tables 1-7 and 1-8, good results are obtained in Examples 1-12 and 1-13 having high contents of water of from 75 to 100% by weight, whereas Comparative Example 1-3 not using the condensed phosphoric acid and the chelating agent suffers from opening of the valve even in the test period of several tens of hours regardless of the low content of water of 15% by weight, and thus the effect of the condensed phosphoric acid and the chelating agent in the invention is understood. Furthermore, in the high-temperature test at 125°C shown in Tables 1-3 to 1-6, good results are obtained in Examples 1-1 to 1-11 having contents of water of from 35 to 60% by weight, whereas in Comparative Examples 1-1 and 1-2 using one of the condensed phosphoric acid or the chelating agent singly, they suffer from opening of the valve even in the test period of several tens of hours regardless of the low content of water of 10% by weight, and thus, the strong synergistic effect between the condensed phosphoric acid and the chelating agent in the invention is understood.
- 10 **[0056]** The equivalent initial characteristics and service life characteristics are obtained in Examples 1-5, 1-6 and 1-7 having contents of ammonium adipate of 9.0, 12.0 and 14.0% by weight, Examples 1-3, 1-6 and 1-9 having contents of triphosphoric acid of 0.2, 1.0 and 2.0% by weight, and Examples 1-4, 1-6 and 1-8 having contents of ammonium citrate of 0.1, 1.0 and 2.0% by weight, and thus, it is understood that excellent characteristics are obtained within the ranges.
- 15 **[0057]** The invention will be described in detail with reference to Second Example. Electrolytic capacitors were produced in the same manner as in the First Example.
- 20 **[0058]** The compositions and the characteristics of the electrolytic solutions used herein are shown in Tables 2-1 and 2-2.
- 25 **[0059]** The aluminum electrolytic capacitors thus constituted were subjected to a high-temperature service life test. The rating of the aluminum electrolytic capacitors is 50 WV-100 μ F. The test conditions are at 125°C with load of the rated voltage for 1,000 hours, and at 125°C with no load for 1,000 hours for Examples 2-1 to 2-11, Conventional Example 2-1, and Comparative Examples 2-1 and 2-2, and at 105°C with load of the rated voltage for 1,000 hours, and at 105°C with no load for 1,000 hours for Examples 2-12 and 2-13, Conventional Example 2-2, and Comparative Example 2-3, with the respective results being shown in Tables 2-3 to 2-6 and Tables 2-7 and 2-8.

30

35

40

45

50

55

Table 2-1

	Water	EG	AAAd	DBP	ACTR	Specific resistance (Ω cm)
Example 2-1	30(35)	56	12.0	1.0	1.0	88
Example 2-2	47(55)	39	12.0	1.0	1.0	43
Example 2-3	52(60)	34	12.8	0.2	1.0	31
Example 2-4	52(60)	34	12.9	1.0	0.1	31
Example 2-5	53(60)	36	9.0	1.0	1.0	39
Example 2-6	52(60)	34	12.0	1.0	1.0	31
Example 2-7	49(60)	33	16.0	1.0	1.0	30
Example 2-8	52(60)	34	11.0	1.0	2.0	33
Example 2-9	52(60)	34	11.0	2.0	1.0	33

(Note)

EG: Ethylene glycol

AAAd: Ammonium adipate

DBP: Dibutyl phosphate

ACTR: Ammonium citrate

The parenthetic numerals in the column for water are the contents of water in the solvent.

Table 2-2

	Water	EG	AAd	DBP	HEDP	ACTR	AGLC	Specific resistance (Ωcm)
Example 2-10	52(60)	34	12.0	—	1.0	—	1.0	32
Example 2-11	52(60)	34	12.0	1.0	—	1.0	—	31
Example 2-12	65(75)	21	12.0	—	1.0	1.0	—	23
Example 2-13	86(100)	—	12.0	—	1.0	1.0	—	15
Conventional Example 2-1	5(5)	93	7.0	—	—	—	—	248
Conventional Example 2-2	9(10)	77	14	—	—	—	—	172
Comparative Example 2-1	9(10)	77	13.0	—	—	1.0	—	175
Comparative Example 2-2	9(10)	77	13.0	—	1.0	—	—	173
Comparative Example 2-3	13(15)	73	14	—	—	—	—	129

(Note)

HEDP: 1-Hydroxyethylidene-1,1-diphosphoric acid

AGLC: Ammonium gluconate

The parenthetic numerals in the column for water are the contents of water in the solvent.

Table 2-3

	Initial characteristics			Load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 2-1	103	0.029	2.11	-6.1	0.094	1.45
Example 2-2	103	0.020	1.79	-6.2	0.031	1.48
Example 2-3	102	0.021	1.88	-6.2	0.029	1.42
Example 2-4	103	0.021	1.89	-6.3	0.030	1.49
Example 2-5	103	0.020	1.95	-6.5	0.031	1.53
Example 2-6	102	0.019	1.92	-6.3	0.030	1.51
Example 2-7	103	0.020	1.91	-6.4	0.029	1.49

(Note)

Cap: Capacitance (μ F)tan δ : Tangent of dielectric lossLC: Leakage current (μ A) Δ Cap: Change rate of capacitance (%)

Table 2-4

	Initial characteristics			Load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 2-8	102	0.019	1.90	-6.2	0.026	1.39
Example 2-9	103	0.020	1.91	-6.1	0.029	1.41
Example 2-10	103	0.021	1.92	-6.4	0.030	1.42
Example 2-11	102	0.019	1.94	-6.3	0.029	1.53
Conventional Example 2-1	101	0.063	2.03	-7.3	0.232	1.54
Comparative Example 2-1	102	0.043	1.90	Valve opened		
Comparative Example 2-2	102	0.044	1.88	Valve opened		

Table 2-5

	Initial characteristics			No load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 2-1	103	0.030	2.09	-8.3	0.125	13.3
Example 2-2	103	0.021	2.03	-7.7	0.028	12.2
Example 2-3	102	0.019	1.92	-7.1	0.030	15.1
Example 2-4	104	0.020	2.02	-7.2	0.027	15.8
Example 2-5	103	0.020	1.95	-8.3	0.028	14.5
Example 2-6	102	0.019	2.03	-7.3	0.025	15.2
Example 2-7	103	0.020	1.89	-8.1	0.028	15.1

Table 2-6

	Initial characteristics			No load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	ΔCap	tan δ	LC
Example 2-8	103	0.020	2.03	-7.2	0.029	13.2
Example 2-9	103	0.018	2.09	-7.1	0.027	14.3
Example 2-10	104	0.021	1.91	-7.3	0.028	12.5
Example 2-11	103	0.020	1.88	-7.3	0.029	12.2
Conventional Example 2-1	101	0.065	2.22	-8.8	0.313	103
Comparative Example 2-1	101	0.045	1.99	Valve opened		
Comparative Example 2-2	101	0.044	2.03	Valve opened		

Table 2-7

	Initial characteristics			Load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 2-12	103	0.020	2.09	-4.7	0.022	1.55
Example 2-13	104	0.018	1.95	-4.9	0.021	1.51
Conventional Example 2-2	103	0.045	1.89	-4.2	0.063	1.59
Comparative Example 2-3	103	0.038	1.92	Valve opened		

Table 2-8

	Initial characteristics			Load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 2-12	102	0.018	2.03	-6.2	0.020	14.3
Example 2-13	103	0.017	1.92	-6.0	0.020	14.5
Conventional Example 2-2	103	0.045	1.88	-5.1	0.069	85.1
Comparative Example 2-3	104	0.037	1.91	Valve opened		

[0060] It is clear from Tables 2-1 to 2-8 that, in Examples 2-1 to 2-13 having contents of water in the solvent of from 35 to 100% by weight, the electrolytic solution has a low specific resistance and a low $\tan \delta$ in the initial stage in comparison to the Conventional Examples. The change of $\tan \delta$ after the high-temperature test is also small. Furthermore, the leakage current after the high-temperature no load test is remarkably small in comparison to the Conventional Examples. In the results of the high-temperature test at 105°C shown in Tables 2-7 and 2-8, good results are obtained in Examples 2-12 and 2-13 having high contents of water of from 75 to 100% by weight, whereas Comparative Example 2-3 not using the phosphorus compound and the chelating agent suffers from opening of the valve even in the test period of several tens of hours regardless of the low content of water of 15% by weight, and thus, the effect of the phosphorus compound and the chelating agent in the invention is understood. Furthermore, in the high-temperature test at 125°C shown in Tables 2-3 to 2-6, good results are obtained in Examples 2-1 to 2-11 having contents of water of from 35 to 60% by weight, whereas in Comparative Examples 2-1 and 2-2 using one of the phosphorus compound or the chelating agent singly, they suffer from opening of the valve even in the test period of several tens of hours regardless of the low content of water of 10% by weight, and thus, the strong synergistic effect between the phosphorus compound and the chelating agent in the invention is understood.

[0061] The equivalent initial characteristics and service life characteristics are obtained in Examples 2-5, 2-6 and 2-7 having contents of ammonium adipate of 9.0, 12.0 and 14.0% by weight, Examples 2-3, 2-6 and 2-9 having contents of dibutyl phosphate of 0.2, 1.0 and 2.0% by weight, and Examples 2-4, 2-6 and 2-8 having contents of ammonium citrate of 0.1, 1.0 and 2.0% by weight, and thus, it is understood that excellent characteristics are obtained within the ranges.

[0062] The invention will be described in detail with reference to Third Example. Electrolytic capacitors were produced in the same manner as in the First Example.

[0063] The compositions of the electrolytic solutions used herein were 52 parts of water, 34 parts of ethylene glycol and 14 parts of ammonium adipate, to which the additives shown in Table 3-1 were added. As Comparative Example 3-3, an electrolytic solution having 26 parts of water, 60 parts of ethylene glycol and 14 parts of ammonium adipate and containing no additive was produced. Table 3-1 also shows the specific resistance thereof.

[0064] The aluminum electrolytic capacitors thus constituted were subjected to a service life test. The rating of the aluminum electrolytic capacitors is 6.3 WV-5,600 μ F. The test conditions are at 105°C with load of the rated voltage or no load for 1,000 hours. As for Examples 3-1, 3-2 and 3-7, it was also carried out at 125°C with load of the rated voltage or no load for 1,000 hours. The electric characteristics after the test are shown in Tables 3-2 to 3-5.

Table 3-1

	DTPA	GEDTA	TTHA	TaA	GaA	PRPA	DBP	2PA	Specific resistance (Ωcm)
Example 3-1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	28
Example 3-2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	31
Example 3-3	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	28
Example 3-4	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	29
Example 3-5	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	28
Example 3-6	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	29
Example 3-7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	28
Example 3-8	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	29
Example 3-9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	29
Comparative Example 3-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.005	26
Comparative Example 3-2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	27
Comparative Example 3-3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80

(Note)

DTPA: Diethylenetriaminopentaacetic acid

GEDTA: Glycoletherdiaminetetraacetic acid

TTHA: Triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid

TaA: Tannic acid

GaA: 3,4,5-Trihydroxybenzoic acid (gallic acid)

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

PRPA: Pyrophosphoric acid

DBP: Dibutyl phosphate

2AP: Diammonium hydrogenphosphate

Table 3-2

	Initial characteristics			Load at 105°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	ΔCap	tan δ	LC
Example 3-1	5,710	0.060	17	-11	0.071	14
Example 3-2	5,690	0.060	15	-11	0.070	16
Example 3-3	5,680	0.061	18	-10	0.070	15
Example 3-4	5,650	0.060	19	-11	0.069	14
Example 3-5	5,680	0.061	15	-10	0.070	16
Example 3-6	5,680	0.060	16	-11	0.071	14
Example 3-7	5,700	0.060	16	-10	0.070	15
Example 3-8	5,680	0.061	15	-10	0.069	12
Example 3-9	5,640	0.059	18	-12	0.073	16
Comparative Example 3-1	5,600	0.060	15	Valve opened		
Comparative Example 3-2	5,610	0.061	35	Valve opened		
Comparative Example 3-3	5,610	0.109	14	Valve opened		

(Note)

Cap: Capacitance (μ F)tan δ : Tangent of dielectric lossLC: Leakage current (μ A) Δ Cap: Change rate of capacitance (%)

Table 3-3

	Initial characteristics			No load at 105°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 3-1	5,700	0.060	16	-12	0.072	36
Example 3-2	5,700	0.061	14	-12	0.074	39
Example 3-3	5,680	0.060	18	-11	0.071	240
Example 3-4	5,640	0.059	18	-10	0.069	318
Example 3-5	5,690	0.061	15	-10	0.070	29
Example 3-6	5,680	0.061	17	-11	0.071	28
Example 3-7	5,710	0.060	15	-12	0.071	31
Example 3-8	5,680	0.061	13	-11	0.070	195
Example 3-9	5,640	0.059	18	-11	0.071	221
Comparative Example 3-1	5,600	0.060	12	Valve opened		
Comparative Example 3-2	5,600	0.061	42	Valve opened		
Comparative Example 3-3	5,600	0.110	16	Valve opened		

Table 3-4

	Initial characteristics			Load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 3-1	5,700	0.062	18	-21	0.071	12
Example 3-2	5,710	0.062	16	-22	0.072	14
Example 3-7	5,700	0.061	14	-20	0.071	12

Table 3-5

	Initial characteristics			No load at 125°C for 1,000 hr		
	Cap	tan δ	LC	Δ Cap	tan δ	LC
Example 3-1	5,700	0.061	15	-23	0.076	32
Example 3-2	5,700	0.062	18	-22	0.074	41
Example 3-7	5,690	0.061	14	-21	0.075	29

[0065] As it is understood from Tables 3-2 to 3-5, the service life characteristics at 105°C and 125°C after 1,000 hours of the Examples were excellent. The capacitance in the initial stage is also high. In comparison to these, Comparative Examples 3-1 and 3-2 having only diammonium hydrogenphosphate added suffer from opening of the valve even though 0.005 part and 1 part, respectively, of diammonium hydrogenphosphate are added to the electrolytic solutions, and the leakage current in the initial stage is high in Comparative Example 3-2 having 1 part of diammonium hydrogenphosphate added.

[0066] Furthermore, Comparative Example 3-3 having neither chelating agent nor diammonium hydrogenphosphate added has a specific resistance of 80 and a $\tan \delta$ of from 0.109 to 0.110, which are in the lowest level as the conventional products, but suffers from opening of the valve, and therefore, it is understood that the invention realizes an electrolytic capacitor, which has low $\tan \delta$ characteristics that are not conventionally attained and has good high-temperature service life characteristics.

Advantage of the Invention:

[0067] The phosphoric acid compound and the chelating agent are added to the solvent containing water as a main component in the electrolytic solution for an electrolytic capacitor in the invention, and therefore, the content of water can be increased to 100% by weight of the solvent, so as to obtain a high electroconductivity of the electrolytic solution. Furthermore, blister and opening of the valve of the capacitor are prevented, and the $\tan \delta$ characteristics after the high-temperature test and the leakage current characteristics after the high-temperature no load test are also improved. As described in the foregoing, an electrolytic capacitor having impedance characteristics and high-temperature service life characteristics that are not conventionally attained, and improved shelf characteristics can be realized owing to the synergistic effect among the solvent containing water as a main component, the phosphoric acid compound and the chelating agent in the electrolytic solution for an electrolytic capacitor of the invention.

Claims

1. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor containing a solvent containing water and a water-soluble aluminum complex having a phosphate ion combined thereto.
2. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein said solvent contains water as a main component.
3. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble aluminum complex having a phosphate ion combined thereto is formed by adding a compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution and a chelating agent forming a water-soluble aluminum complex with aluminum.
4. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein said compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid or salts thereof; a phosphate or an alkylphosphate, a phosphonate, a diphosphonate or a derivative thereof, a phosphinate ester, or a salt thereof; and a condensate thereof or a salt of said condensate.
5. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein at least one kind of adipic acid and a salt thereof is used as a solute.
6. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein a content of water is from 35 to 100% by weight of the entire solvent.
7. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 5, wherein a content of adipic acid or a salt thereof is from 5 to 20% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.
8. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein a content of said compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution is from 0.01 to 3.0% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.
9. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein a content of said chelating agent is from 0.01 to 3.0% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.

10. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 3, wherein said chelating agent is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of citric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, malic acid, lactic acid, glycolic acid, α -hydroxybutyric acid, hydroxymalonic acid, α -methylmalic acid, dihydroxytartaric acid, γ -resocyclic acid, β -resocyclic acid, trihydroxybenzoic acid, hydroxyphthalic acid, dihydroxyphthalic acid, phenoltricarboxylic acid, aluminon, Eriochrome Cyanine R, sulfosalicylic acid, tannic acid, dicyandiamide, galactose, glucose, lignosulfonate, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), glycoetherdiaminetetraacetic acid (GEDTA), diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid (TTHA), and salts of them.

Amended claims under Art. 19.1 PCT

(Accepted by the International Bureau on July 28, 2000 (28.07.00):

Claims 1 to 10 as filed have been substituted by amended claims 1 to 8. (2 pages))

1. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor containing a solvent containing water in an amount of from 35 to 100% by weight of the entire solvent and a water-soluble aluminum complex having a phosphate ion combined thereto.
2. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble aluminum complex having a phosphate ion combined thereto is formed by adding a compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution and a chelating agent forming a water-soluble aluminum complex with aluminum.
3. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein said compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, hypophosphorous acid or salts thereof; a phosphate or an alkylphosphate, a phosphonate, a diphosphonate or a derivative thereof, a phosphinate ester, or a salt thereof; and a condensate thereof or a salt of said condensate.
4. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 1, wherein at least one kind of adipic acid and a salt thereof is used as a solute.
5. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 4, wherein a content of adipic acid or a salt thereof is from 5 to 20% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.
6. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein a content of said compound forming a phosphate ion in an aqueous solution is from 0.01 to 3.0% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.
7. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein a content of said chelating agent is from 0.01 to 3.0% by weight of the entire electrolytic solution.
8. An electrolytic solution for an aluminum electrolytic capacitor according to claim 2, wherein said chelating agent is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of citric acid, tartaric acid, gluconic acid, malic acid, lactic acid, glycolic acid, α -hydroxybutyric acid, hydroxymalonic acid, α -methylmalic acid, dihydroxytartaric acid, γ -resocyclic acid, β -resocyclic acid, trihydroxybenzoic acid, hydroxyphthalic acid, dihydroxyphthalic acid, phenoltricarboxylic acid, aluminon, Eriochrome Cyanine R, sulfosalicylic acid, tannic acid, dicyandiamide, galactose, glucose, lignosulfonate, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), glycoetherdiaminetetraacetic acid (GEDTA), diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), hydroxyethylethylenediaminetriacetic acid (HEDTA), triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid (TTHA), and salts of them.

Explanation on a basis of Section 19 of the Treaty

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 8-88147, which is considered to be particularly relevant to the present invention, is concerned with an electrolytic solution for an electrolytic capacitor of an organic solvent system, i.e., a non-aqueous solvent system.

The present invention, on the other hand, is concerned with an aqueous electrolytic solution for an electrolytic

EP 1 170 761 A1

capacitor containing water as a main component.

Consequently, in order to clarify the characteristics of the present invention, an amendment for specifying the content of water in the solvent set forth in claim 6 (from 35 to 100% by weight of the entire solvent) has been made in claim 1.

5 Based on the amendment of claim 1, claims 2 and 6 before the amendment have been canceled.

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP00/01667

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl.⁷ H01G 9/035

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl.⁷ H01G 9/035

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1926-1996	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2000
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2000	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2000

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP, 8-88147, A (Toshiba Corporation), 02 April, 1996 (02.04.96) & US, 5629829, A	1-4, 8-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" documents of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
08 June, 2000 (08.06.00)Date of mailing of the international search report
27 June, 2000 (27.06.00)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)